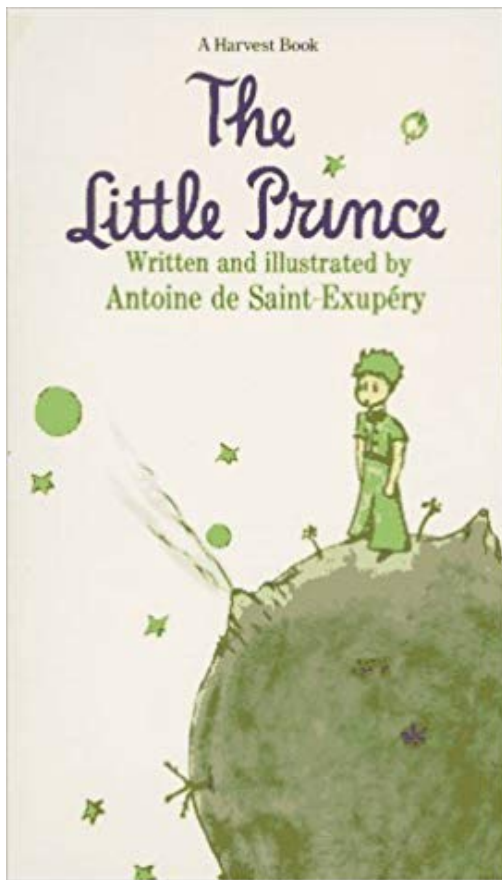


The Little Prince *by* Katherine Woods,Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



A pilot is forced down in the Sahara where he meets a strange little prince from another planet

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DABY

Part of reviewing on Amazon is trying to counter Amazon's mis-posting of ratings of one edition of the same title with other editions of that title. Many times I have tried to use amazon stars differently with different editions, and tried several times to correct the number of stars here, but amazon still cannot handle that and gives the wrong number of stars to the wrong editions often. So let's try to counter this right off the bat and move my ratings to the top of the page:

The ratings:
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They clearly don't have the soul of poets or philosophers ideally necessary, nor even the workman-like craft to simply translate what is there. Their approach to translation, like Howard's is unforgivable, and is another reason this book too should absolutely just sit on the rubbish heap until someone re-does it properly. The book itself is charming: tiny, hardcover, with gilt-page edges and a ribbon marker. Full marks for being sturdy and beautifully portable, but otherwise... do yourself a favour and stay away from it too.

I recently found another translation of which I was unaware, from Alan Wakeman, 1995 (hardcover, illustrated from St. Exupery by Michael Foreman. Michael Foreman is one of my favourite illustrators and I have many of his books. Works in beautiful watercolours. I wondered. When it arrived I knew I was in for something special. Wakeman (he says in the preface), started translating in 1979, not under contract, but simply because he was not satisfied with the Katherine Woods' translation. He worked in his favourite retreat by the sea, overlooking the Golfe de Gens, which turned out, from the beginning discovery in 1993 of St. Exupery's sunken plane, to overlook the crash site in the sea where St. Exupery was lost. It took another decade or so to absolutely confirm that this is where St. Exupery went down, but Wakeman was apparently eerily in touch with something from St. Exupery through their labours of love.

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My recommendation is to buy the best available, the Wakeman/Foreman hardcover edition, or the Woods hardcover, (or both; each have their merits and shortcomings), and if your French is alright, get a French version too. It is worth working through *Le Petit Prince*. You will learn more about life and language and different cultures in doing so than in many larger weightier, more adult tomes and our children will too from this timeless story with so many layers and such depth in its simplicity.

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Doukree

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RED

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Ka

The review is only for the quality of book "*The Little Prince: The Childrens Classic Novella (Voted Best Book of the 20th Century in France)* by CreateSpace publishing. I was attracted towards this version because it said it's Katherine Wood's translation which is better than Howard's translation (Blue Cover). Also, the cover looked exactly same as the one I loved as a child. So I bought this to gift a friend and when it arrived it was nothing like I expected. It said non-illustrated in the description, but I was not expecting it missing even the illustrations mentioned in the text. It's not like a proper book at all, it's just like the text of *Little Prince* type-setted and printed on some home printer. It looks more like home printed and less like a book. I have not confirmed if it actually is Wood's translation if it is, it does have some value for those who are looking specifically for this translation, kind of like a manuscript. If it's not Wood's translation, it's a scam. This version is useless for first-time readers and for gifting.

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